

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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USNMR SHAPE

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S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0487

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: OPTION 3 - ARMAMENTS LIMITATIONS

REF: USNATO 5727 (DTG 211633Z OCT 75)

1. WE NOTE THE REPEATED EFFORTS OF BELGIAN SPC REPRESENTATIVE WILLOT, MOST RECENTLY IN THE SPC MEETING OF OCTOBER 20, TO GAIN AGREEMENT TO THE IDEA THAT, SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH PRESENTING OPTION 3, THE ALLIES SHOULD SAY THAT THE WEST WAS UNWILLING TO ACCEPT ANY LIMITATIONS ON WESTERN EUROPEAN ARMAMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THIS PROPOSAL.

2. IT IS CLEAR THAT, FROM THE NEGOTIATING VIEWPOINT, THIS PROPOSAL IS A MAXIMALIST POSITION, IN THAT ANY FAVORABLE EASTERN RESPONSE TO OPTION 3 WOULD HAVE TO INDICATE

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SIMULTANEOUS EASTERN AGREEMENT TO THE IDEA THAT THERE SHOULD

BE NO LIMITATIONS ON WESTERN EUROPEAN ARMAMENTS. THIS APPROACH WOULD DIMINISH THE NEGOTIATING IMPACT OF OPTION 3.

3. THE NEGATIVE TACTICAL EFFECTS OF THIS PROPOSAL ARE ALSO CLEAR, IN THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY PRECIPITATE A DISCUSSION OF LIMITATIONS ON EUROPEAN ARMAMENTS EVEN BEFORE THE EAST HAD TO RESPOND TO THE SUBSTANCE OF OPTION 3. WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO REJECT THE WILLOT PROPOSAL ON THESE GROUNDS TOO.

4. BUT, IN ADDITION, THE PROPOSAL STRETCHES LOGIC. WILLOT'S LINE OF THOUGHT APPEARS TO BE THAT, FOR THE ALLIES TO REPLY TO ANY AND ALL EASTERN QUESTIONS ON LIMITATIONS ALONG THE LINE THAT THE ALLIES ARE NOT WILLING TO DISCUSS ANY ASPECTS OF ARMAMENT LIMITATIONS UNTIL THERE HAD BEEN AN EASTERN RESPONSE ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE OPTION 3 PROPOSAL COULD CREATE A JUSTIFIED INFERENCE IN THE MINDS OF EASTERN NEGOTIATORS THAT THE WEST WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT LIMITATIONS ON WESTERN EUROPEAN ARMAMENTS. PRESUMABLY, WILLOT'S FURTHER CONCLUSION IS THAT THE WEST WOULD THEN HAVE TO EXPECT EASTERN CHARGES OF BAD FAITH WHEN THE ACTUAL WESTERN POSITION AGAINST ARMAMENTS LIMITATIONS FOR THE WEST EUROPEANS IS REVEALED.

5. WE SHOULD NOT ACCEPT CLAIMS THAT THE CURRENT US PROPOSAL COULD LEAD TO A PROBLEM OF THIS KIND. VIEWED OBJECTIVELY, WE DO NOT SEE HOW A WESTERN RESPONSE OF THE KIND THE US HAS PROPOSED COULD JUSTIFIABLY LEAD TO SUCH AN INFERENCE ON THE PART OF THE EAST. THIS WOULD ONLY BE THE CASE IF THE WEST HAD BEEN WILLING TO DEAL, IF ONLY TO SOME EXTENT, WITH ARMAMENTS LIMITATIONS AS THEY AFFECT THE US AND HAD AT THE SAME TIME DELIBERATELY SUPPRESSED MENTION OF ITS POSITION AGAINST ARMAMENTS LIMITATIONS ON THE WESTERN EUROPEANS. THIS WILL NOT BE SO IF NATO ADOPTS THE PROPOSED US POSITION. IF THE EAST NONETHELESS SUBSEQUENTLY MADE CLAIMS OF BAD FAITH FOR TACTICAL REASONS, THE NEGOTIATING RECORD OF ALLIED STATEMENTS THAT THE ALLIES DID NOT WISH TO DISCUSS ANY ASPECT OF LIMITATIONS UNTIL THEY HAD RECEIVED AN ANSWER ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THEIR PROPOSAL WOULD BE FULLY ADEQUATE TO REFUTE EASTERN CLAIMS. DEAN

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